

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were in the application as originally filed. The Examiner has made certain objections to the claims under 37 CFR § 1.75(c) and 35 USC § 112. Claim 4 has been amended so as to remove the improper multiple dependent form. The dependent claims have been amended so as to use the term "vertical partition member" in place of the term "partition." Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended so as to make clear as to which frame and lightweight member are being referred to.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 5-8, 9-10, 12-17, 21, 25, and 26-28 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent to Jonsson 3,719,768.

The Examiner references the concept that the Jonsson patent discloses a reconfigurable vertical partition member 14. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Jonsson patent does not make clear that the wall panels 14 are reconfigurable. Instead, it appears that Jonsson merely states that the wall panels 14 may take on a variety of forms. In this regard, each of independent claims 1, 15, and 21 define a reconfigurable vertical partition member connected to the ceiling or the frame of the ceiling. In view of the partition member of Applicant's invention being reconfigurable, Applicant respectfully submits that neither claim 1, claim 15, nor claim 21 is anticipated by Jonsson.

With respect to the dependent claims rejected by the Examiner being anticipated by Jonsson, each of these dependent claims is directly or indirectly dependent from independent claim 1, 15, or 21, and incorporates all limitations thereof. For the reasons previously set forth herein that each of these independent claims is not anticipated by Jonsson, Applicant respectfully submits that none of these dependent claims are anticipated by Jonsson.

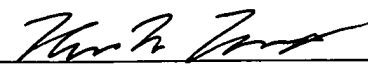
Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 2, 3, 11, 18-20, 22-24, under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jonsson. Each of these claims is a dependent claim which is directly or indirectly dependent from one of the independent claims 1, 15, or 21. For the reasons previously set forth herein, none of the independent claims or the dependent claims are anticipated by Jonsson. For these same reasons, none of the independent claims 1, 15, or 21 are taught or suggested by Jonsson. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that none of these dependent claims, for the same reasons, are taught or suggested by Jonsson. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the dependent claims rejected by the Examiner under § 103(a) is patentable over Jonsson as amended.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims remaining in the application as amended are now in condition for allowance, and early notification of allowability is respectfully requested. Should any questions arise in connection with the above, please contact Thomas L. Lockhart at the telephone number of 616/336-6000.

Respectfully submitted,

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